

Remarks

Claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 21, 23, 24 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne (WO 92/22983) in view of Kikuchi (US 6,577,812) and further in view of Kawai (US 4,959,735).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and submitted to be inapplicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai, since claim 7 recites a remaining recordable time calculation apparatus including, in part, remaining recordable time display means for displaying a ratio of remaining recordable time calculated by time calculation means, to a total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form; and running time display means for displaying a running time of a video stream instructed by instruction receiving means, wherein a display screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display means and a display screen displayed by the running time display means are switchable. The combination of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 7.

In the rejection of claim 7, the bar 305a in the auto recording storage allocation section 305 of the setup page screen 300 of Browne is relied upon as corresponding to both the remaining recordable time display means for displaying a ratio of remaining recordable time to a total time period for which recording is possible and the running time display means for displaying a running time of a video stream. (See page 3 of the Office Action). However, Browne clearly indicates that the bar 305a shows a portion of total available storage that has been allocated for continuous FIFO buffering. (See page 20, line 28 – page 21, line 3 and Figure 3).

In light of this disclosure, it is apparent that the bar 305a represents the remaining available storage and not the total storage capacity of the recorder. Additionally, the darkened portion of the bar 305a represents the portion of the remaining available storage that has been allocated for the FIFO buffering. Therefore, the bar 305a does not display a ratio of remaining recordable time to a total time period for which recording is possible or a running time of a video stream, as do the claimed remaining recordable time display means and running time display means, respectively. Further, even if the bar 305a is somehow construed as disclosing one of the ratio of remaining recordable time to the total time period for which recording is possible or the

running time of a video stream, there is no basis for relying on the bar 305a as disclosing both of these items.

Also, claim 7 recites that a display screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display means and a display screen displayed by the running time display means are switchable. The rejection relies on the display mode section 304 of the setup page screen 300 of Browne as disclosing this feature of claim 7. (See pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action). However, Browne clearly indicates that the display mode section 304 allows for the selection of outputs 112a-112c connected to, for example, a television 312, a VCR 322 and a control device 332, respectively, to display multiple programs on a single screen or multiple programs in different ways. Regarding this, window option 304a allows one of the outputs 112a-112c to be widowed in another output; window output 304b allows a number of different outputs to be windowed equally; and window output 304c allows an output to be displayed on the full screen. (See page 20, lines 2-5; column 21, lines 4-17; and Figure 3).

In light of this disclosure, it is apparent that the display mode section 304 allows a user to select between which of the outputs 112a-112c is to be displayed on a screen and allows the user to select the manner in which the selected outputs 112a-112c are to be displayed with the window outputs 304a-304c. However, it is clear that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Browne that the display mode section 304 of the setup page screen 300 has any effect on the display of the bar 305a, or the setup page screen 300 as a whole. Further, since the rejection takes the (improper) position that the bar 305a corresponds to both the ratio of remaining recordable time to a total time period for which recording is possible displayed by the remaining recordable time display means and the running time of a video stream displayed by the running time display means, it unclear how the bar 305a is “switchable” between a display screen of the remaining recordable time display means and a display screen of the running time display means, since the manner in which the bar 305a is relied upon in the rejection is such that only one display screen exists.

For the reasons set forth above, it is apparent that Browne fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features as recited in claim 7. As a result, Kikuchi and/or Kawai must disclose or suggest these features in order for the combination to render claim 7 obvious.

Regarding Kikuchi and Kawai, they are being relied upon on in the rejection as disclosing the details of a remaining recordable time calculation apparatus and storing a standard

bit rate to calculate time remaining in an input audio signal, respectively. However, it is apparent that neither Kikuchi, nor Kawai, discloses or suggests the above-discussed features of claim 7. As a result, claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai.

Regarding claim 21, it is patentable over the combination of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 7. That is, claim 21 recites, in part, a remaining recordable time display unit operable to display a ratio of remaining recordable time calculated by a time calculation unit, to a total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form; and a running time display unit operable to display a running time of a video stream instructed by an instruction receiving unit, wherein a display screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display unit and a display screen displayed by the running time display unit are switchable, which features are not disclosed or suggested by the references.

In addition to the patentability of claims 7 and 21, the Applicants respectfully submit that Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 9 and 23 and claims 10 and 24.

Claims 9 and 23 each recite the display of a ratio of the running time of the selected video stream to the total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form. As discussed above, the bar 305a of Browne represents the remaining available storage of the recorder. However, the darkened portion of the bar 305a represents the portion of the remaining available storage that has been allocated for the FIFO buffering and is not related to the running time of a selected video stream.

This feature of the present invention provides a user-friendly display of the running time of only the selected stream. Therefore, if multiple streams are recorded, the user can recognize the running time of the selected stream without confusing it with the running time of another stream. Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai either individually, or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 9 and 23.

Claims 28 and 29 each recite the obtaining of a display location of the screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display means (unit). As discussed above, the setup page 300 of Browne includes the auto recording storage allocation section 305 that displays the allocation of remaining storage capacity. Further, the display mode section 304 allows a user to select between which of the outputs 112a-112c is to be displayed on a screen and allows the user to select the manner in which the selected outputs 112a-112c are to be displayed with the window

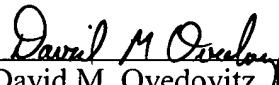
outputs 304a-304c. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Browne regarding the location of the setup page 300. Therefore, it is apparent that Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai either individually, or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 28 and 29.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 21, 23, 24 and 27-29 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 21, 23, 24 and 27-29. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 21, 23, 24 and 27-29 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Eiichi HATAE et al.

By: 
David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 5, 2007